

ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

From Where It All Began

... Is Happening Again

No. 85 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

November 2015

Experience All the Best of the Holiday Season

Holly Trail, Festival of Lights Set Dec. 5

Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace!

These are the themes of Christmas, but when Jesus was born these were longed for but not experienced by His people. Their hope had burned out. Love was replaced with selfishness. Joy had been taken captive by despair. Peace was only found in stories of the past.

After 400 years of silence God had not forgotten His people. He broke that silence with a baby's cry, a star in the sky, the joyful proclamation of the angels, and a visit from shepherds. Jesus revived hope in His people as God fulfilled his promise to send the Messiah. Jesus demonstrated love by sacrificially giving Himself to redeem people from their sins. Jesus brought joy back to the hearts of His people by giving them a new purpose for living. Finally, Jesus restored peace between God and His people despite the political conflict around them.

God is still giving these gifts to us today: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace! We all want these gifts, but we must receive them before we can benefit from them in our lives. To receive these gifts is easy. We must open our hands instead of keeping them closed.

However, here is a warning: To open your hands



**Festive homes await visitors
on the Orwigsburg Holly Trail**

fully to God to receive his gifts means we must let go of other things that we are holding onto that are not from Him. This is what keeps many from ever experiencing the true hope, love, joy and peace that God has for us. They are afraid of losing something, but that something will never be as good as the gifts that God has for us! You just may be in need of one, if not all, of His gifts and we pray that you will receive them this Christmas.

The Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association, local churches, area businesses, the Orwigsburg Lions Club, and the Borough join together to help our community welcome the Christmas season on Saturday, Dec. 5 on the Centre Square. In the event of rain or worse (snow?), the celebration may be postponed to the next day, Sunday, Dec. 6.

The festivities "on the square" begin at 4:30 p.m. with the Blue Mountain High School band playing their merry tunes. You can visit the Nativity and examine the display of wreaths decorated by local

– Continued on page 2

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Wednesday, Nov. 11 – Veterans Day service on Centre Square; 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 25 – Community-wide Thanksgiving Eve service; 7 p.m.; hosted at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 215 N. Warren St.

Saturday, Nov. 28 – Children's Christmas Party; 5 to 8 p.m.; Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall; call 570-366-3103 to register; area children up to 10 years of age and parents/grandparents.

Saturday, Dec. 5 – Holly Trail, sponsored by the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library; 12 noon to 4 p.m.; tickets and tour program/map available at the library; call 570-366-1638.

Saturday, Dec. 5 – Festival of Lights; 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Orwigsburg Centre Square; program, food, entertainment, and trolley ride with Santa.

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Holly Trail & Festival of Lights

ORWIGSBURG BOROUGH

209 N. Warren Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961 • Ph: 570-366-3103
www.orwigsburg.net

OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Barry Berger
Council President..... Buddy Touchinsky
Council Vice President..... Susan Murphy
Borough Manager..... Robert A. Williams
Secretary..... Sherry Edwards
Treasurer..... Colleen Hoptak
Tax Receiver..... Colleen Hoptak
Solicitor..... Frank Tamulonis
Borough Engineers..... ARRO Consulting, Inc.
Entech Engineering, Inc.
Alfred Benesch & Company
Fire Chief..... Dave Hardinger

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Paul Bedway, Jr. • Darle Cresswell
Edward Mady • David Rubright
Angela Hoptak-Solga

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency..... Dial 9-1-1
Non-emergency..... 570-366-3101
Stanley Brozana, Chief
Brandon Bayer • John Koury • Robert Bechtel

STREET DEPARTMENT

Jake Brensinger • David Teter • Brandon Wagner

WATER AND WASTEWATER

Patrick Mulqueen • David Teter • Jake Brensinger

BOROUGH OFFICE

Sherry Edwards • Kathi Mengle

Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the First and Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Orwigsburg Municipal Building, 209 North Warren Street.

Both meetings are open to the public. A Work Session for discussions and setting of an agenda takes place on the First Wednesday each month. The Business Meeting is then held on the Second Wednesday.

OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Orwigsburg Borough offices will be closed on the following days in 2015 in observance of the stated holidays – Good Friday, April 3; Memorial Day, May 25; Independence Day, July 3; Labor Day, September 7; Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 and 27; Christmas eve and day, Dec. 24 and 25.

– Continued from Page 1

businesses. Satisfy your hunger with food and cold/hot drinks from the Orwigsburg Lions Club.

The main program begins at 5 p.m. and will feature announcement of the Christmas home decorating and BMEE coloring contests, lighting of the town Christmas tree, candle lighting service, singing of carols, and the story of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace for Christmas.

The event will conclude with the arrival of Santa on the trolley, but don't run back home too quickly. Get in line for your free trolley ride with Santa and stop by local restaurants for a nice dinner out.

If you have some time in the afternoon before the Festival of Lights, make sure to venture on the Orwigsburg Library's annual Holly Trail which runs from noon to 4 p.m. Tour some of the towns wonderfully decorated homes and be entertained at the traditional tea and cookie stop at Kimmels Church. There you can enjoy getting a picture memory, listen to live music, and relax with good friends. For tickets and more information contact the Orwigsburg Library at 570-366-1638.

To enter your Orwigsburg, Deer Lake, or McKeesburg area home for the Christmas Home Decorating Contest, decorate early and contact Sheila's Floral Gallery at 570-366-2701 prior to November 28 when the judges will choose the winners. Prizes will be awarded at the Festival of Lights.

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HOURS OF OPERATION

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*Evenings By Appointment



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Message from the Council President

In the previous newsletter, I used a question and answer format to provide transparency regarding several issues important to residents. I received more positive feedback on this article than any I have written to date. I'll follow it up with another frank discussion on an issue I'm sure many of you have questions about (it's probably been in the news recently), next year's budget and what most likely will be a tax increase.



BUDDY TOUCHINSKY
Council President

First, let me give a brief review of property taxes. Property taxes consist of school district, county, and borough taxes. In Orwigsburg, our borough taxes are 3 mills. That means the borough charges \$3 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

As an example, let's say a home is bought at \$100,000. This means for tax purposes, it is assessed at one half actual value, or \$50,000. Paying \$3 for every \$1,000, the borough taxes for this property would be \$150. I mention this because some people feel our taxes are very high in Orwigsburg. The school district portion may make it seem high (at 37.254 mills, more than 10 times the Borough rate), but the borough portion is actual quite modest.

Last year, we did an assessment of tax rates for boroughs in Schuylkill County. We came up with a list of 30 boroughs. Millage ranged from 2.26 to 32.52 with an average of 11.96.

Orwigsburg is at 3 mills. Since that doesn't tell the whole story, we broke it down by the total amount of revenue collected, took the total population, and came up with how much is collected per resident. This ranged from \$49.51 to \$230.43 with an average of 122.63.

In comparison, Orwigsburg's annual taxation per resident is \$64.87.

It's probably obvious that I am making a case that we're on the low end of the tax scale. That alone doesn't mean we necessarily should raise our taxes, but when we can't meet our obligations and cover our basic operating expenses, then there's a problem.

On one hand it has been great that we've been able to keep our taxes fairly low over the years.

On the other hand, I think it has hamstrung us. We haven't been keeping up with inflation, and instead of raising taxes periodically, we've been chopping budget items. This is great if there are areas where spending is not absolutely necessary or excessive, but it can become detrimental if it means cutting things ... like preventative maintenance, the ability to provide adequate police coverage, and keeping up with the continual degradation of streets, buildings, etc.

To be perfectly honest, we found ourselves doing



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HOURS:

Monday - Friday – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Message from the Council President

2014 Schuylkill County Borough Assessed Values

Municipality Name	Assessed Value	Millage Rate	Total Revenue	Population	Amount per person
PORT CLINTON BORO	3,936,850	4.10	16,141	326	49.51 No police
TOWER CITY BORO	12,514,565	5.70	71,333	1,346	53.00 No police
DEER LAKE BORO	16,540,965	2.26	37,383	687	54.41 No police
LANDINGVILLE BORO	2,317,520	4.00	9,270	159	58.30 No police
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN BORO	68,985,045	4.75	327,679	5,437	60.27 Electric utility
ST CLAIR BORO	36,407,945	5.00	182,040	3,004	60.60 Electric utility
GILBERTON BORO	3,460,870	13.81	47,808	769	62.17 No police
ORWIGSBURG BORO	67,005,760	3.00	201,017	3,099	64.87
MECHANICSVILLE BORO	5,928,295	6.50	38,534	457	84.32
NEW RINGGOLD BORO	3,659,215	6.58	24,078	276	87.24
MIDDLEPORT BORO	4,512,685	8.00	36,101	405	89.14
AUBURN BORO	10,028,525	7.50	75,214	741	101.50
PAULO ALTO BORO	11,067,200	9.50	105,138	1,032	101.88
GIRARDVILLE BORO	8,651,265	18.70	161,779	1,519	106.50
GORDON BORO	9,863,040	8.50	83,836	763	109.88
TREMONT BORO	15,045,275	14.00	210,634	1,752	120.22
MCADOO BORO	20,445,345	14.36	293,595	2,300	127.65
MT CARBON BORO	1,685,825	7.00	11,801	91	129.68
MINERSVILLE BORO	37,042,225	16.00	592,676	4,397	134.79
CRESSONA BORO	28,737,425	7.96	228,750	1,651	138.55
PORT CARBON BORO	22,966,175	12.15	279,016	1,889	147.71
RINGTOWN BORO	13,012,740	10.00	130,127	818	159.08
SHENANDOAH BORO	32,354,660	25.00	808,867	5,071	159.51
NEW PHILADELPHIA BORO	12,300,555	15.00	184,508	1,085	170.05
MAHANAY CITY BORO	24,048,480	32.52	782,153	4,162	187.93
TAMAQUA BORO	72,697,745	18.75	1,363,083	7,107	191.79
PINE GROVE BORO	31,200,605	14.00	436,808	2,186	199.82
FRACKVILLE BORO	46,375,345	17.08	792,091	3,805	208.17
COALDALE BORO	20,957,445	25.04	524,774	2,281	230.06
ASHLAND BORO	29,505,495	22.00	649,121	2,817	230.43

11.9589

122.63 Averages

some of the latter during the recent recession.

Council didn't want to raise taxes while people were already hurting. It was a good thought, but now over six years later, it's time to do what is prudent. It's time to make sure that we are not setting ourselves up for a financial disaster by allowing our infrastructure to deteriorate around us.

It has been made clear to me that residents prefer 24/7 police coverage.

To put things in perspective, our budget for 2015 was the same as our budget five years ago. Insurance costs, employee wages, etc. all increase year to year, so it shows how much we've been cutting out vs. increasing our revenue.

So, yes, by the time this is published (I'm writing this mid-October), we will most likely have come to terms that taxes must be increased if we plan to continue providing the services and maintaining the infrastructure as our residents have come to expect.

How much? Realistically, it probably should be increased by about 3 mills, but I doubt borough council will agree to double our taxes in a single year. I predict we'll settle with a mill or two until we see how the local developments turn out over the next year.

While no one necessarily likes to see more developments, it does increase property values and leads to more tax revenue, which in turn allows tax rates for everyone to remain lower.

So, what do you get for this increase? First, it allows us to hire at least one more full time police officer to help us provide 24/7 coverage. Additionally, it allows us to slowly catch up to infrastructure needs that we've been neglecting, like street repairs, drain box repairs, building maintenance, and equipment updates. It also helps us cover the increase in our

operating costs like utilities, insurances, etc. Without a raise at some point, we would continue to be short each year and would bleed away our reserve funds. This has been happening over the past few years.

I know the local papers will splash headlines like "66% tax hike!" or other attention grabbing phrases, but I hope you understand these points.

- One, even with an increase of 100%, we'd still be one of the more fiscally conservative boroughs in the county when measured against our peers.
- Two, there will be a slightly larger increase than we'd all like to see, but this is because we put off smaller periodic increases over the years.
- Three, as described above, the residents will see a direct benefit due to the increase.

Asking people to pay out more of their hard earned money is something no one wants to do, but rest assured we will continue to make those dollars go as far as possible.

If anyone has any questions regarding the proposed 2016 budget, which includes the general, water, sewer, and sanitation budgets, we will make that available on our website and at the borough office. As always, residents are invited to come ask questions and participate in the process by attending our public meetings, held the first and second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

– Buddy Touchinsky, Council President

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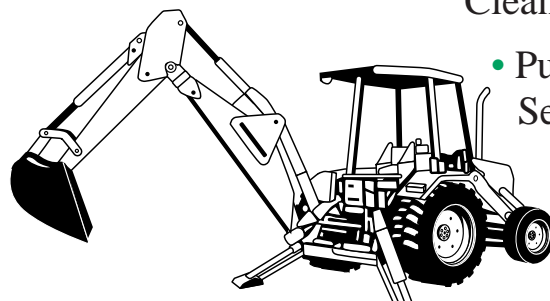
Orwigsburg

- Septic Systems Installed, Replaced and Repaired

- Septic Tanks & Cesspools Cleaned

- Year Round Cleaning

- Pumps Serviced



Proclamation from the Orwigsburg Mayor

A Perfect Time to Get Old-Fashioned "Social"

This issue of "Happenings" greets the Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year's holiday stretch. It always seems to be one of the busier segments of time in my year as we get our work schedule cleared before the onset of winter weather.



BARRY J. BERGER
Mayor

Likewise, there always seems to be plenty to occupy what free time we have. I'm dating myself by saying I hail from an age when the words "social" and "media" were rarely used in the same conversation, yet alone side by side. The words "event", "gathering", "hour", "circle", and "club" were the normal companions of "social", all referring to some level of actual personal interaction.

While I admit that I value the conveniences of today's technology, I am puzzled as to the "social" benefit of being eye-locked to a thumb-scrolled screen to check Snapface (to borrow from Bill Belichick) while walking down the street, waiting for the bus, or sitting at the table as fellow members of society pass by unnoticed, unacknowledged, with some unfortunately preoccupied in the very same manner.

To get to the point of the matter, I think we need

to force ourselves and anyone else over whom we have influence to consciously minimize exposure to the internet and social media. The best strategy to realize that disengagement is to participate in activities that revolve around person-to-person contact.

We are fortunate that such opportunities abound during this season. Get out to vote and then stop by the Masonic Lodge for pork and sauerkraut. Join in the observance of Veterans' Day. Help the holiday food bank. Hit the Holly Trail. Sing along at the Festival of Lights. Make time to gather with family and friends. Congregate in worship.

It is these types of social activities that form society and build community. Be thankful for the blessings you have received. Offer your assistance to those who have need. Share this pleasant season in our pleasant piece of the world.

– Barry J. Berger, Mayor

SPREAD THE WORD

Interested in submitting an article for next quarter's issue of **Orwigsburg Happenings**? We welcome community service and non-profit organization information. Please contact Kathi Mengle at 570-366-3103 or kathi@orwigsburg.net

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Children's Christmas party

All area children, up to 10 years of age, and their parents and grandparents are invited to the third annual Orwigsburg Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, Nov. 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by Market Street Wash Rite and Classy III, Inc., the newly remodeled Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall, Grove and North Washington streets, will welcome all to this FREE event. Prior registration by calling the Borough office at 570-366-3103 is requested so that all can be accommodated. Attendees can also register by email at Orwigsburg@comcast.net.



Free hot dogs and drinks will be served. Children will be treated to an evening of fun, including face painting and crafts. Santa is expected to make his first visit to Orwigsburg this holiday season to meet with all the children at this event and receive their Christmas present "wish list."

Santa will arrive at 5:30 p.m. and the evening will conclude with the movie showing of "The Santa Clause" starring Tim Allen beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bleacher seating is available for the movie or attendees are encouraged to bring blankets for floor seating.

This children's Christmas party is a supporter of the annual Toys for Tots campaign of the U.S. Marine Corps. Families are asked to bring a new, unwrapped, children's present for the Toys for Tots collection.

Light up Orwigsburg

The lights on our community tree and the trees on the square will be lighted on December 5 during the Festival of Lights. Will you help make Orwigsburg shine even brighter this holiday season by placing holiday electric candles on window sills at your home or business?

Calling all Veterans

In an effort to recognize all Orwigsburg veterans at the refurbished Veterans Community Memorial Hall, the project's development taskforce is requesting the names of service members who served our great country in the armed forces. If you, a family member, friend, neighbor, associate, or if you have knowledge of the military service of a member of our community, please forward your/their name, rank, branch of service, and the dates of federal service to Borough Manager Robert Williams at 570-366-3103 or robert@orwigsburg.net



Sewage system improvement

The Interceptor Realignment Sewer Improvement Project from Ridge Road down South Liberty St. to the borough's sewage treatment plant is completed pending.

- Continued on page 10



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HOURS:

Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. by Appt.



R&J TOURS - 2015-'16 HAPPENINGS

Nov 12 - Sands Casino \$35 FSP	Orwigsburg Pickup	\$24
Nov 21 - Elvis-Perkins-Cash-Lewis 'A Night to Remember' Penn's Peak	Orwigsburg Pickup	\$46
Nov 26 - Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade		\$39
Nov 27 - 'Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells @ Dutch Apple		\$40
Dec 1-6 - Nashville Country Christmas		\$1,307 p/p dbl
Dec 1 - Christmas Package at American Music Theatre		\$88*
Dec 2 - "Miracle of Christmas" @ Sight & Sound		\$93*
Dec 2 - Radio City Christmas Spectacular (NO FREE TIME)		\$112
Dec 3 - Pennsylvania Christmas & Gift Show		\$28*
Dec 5 - Gourmet Food Shopping in NYC		\$40
Dec 5 & 12 - New York City Free Day		\$39
Dec 9 - 'Good Night Mrs. Puffin' @ Rainbow Comedy Playhouse		\$72
Dec 10 - Sands Casino \$35 FSP	Orwigsburg Pickup	\$24
Dec 12 - Victorian Christmas in Cape May		\$135
Dec 26 - New York City Free Day		\$39
Jan 11 - 100th Pennsylvania Farm Show		\$21
Feb 6 - Philadelphia International Auto Show		\$41
Feb 8 - Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg		\$33*
Feb 23 - 'Sweet Caroline' Neil Diamond Performer @ Mount Airy Casino		\$63
Feb 27 - Spring Doo Wop Cavalcade @ AMT w/meal		\$86
Mar 19 - Gourmet Shopping in NYC		\$40
Mar 19 - The Oak Ridge Boys @ AMT		\$68
Mar 21-24 - Branson at the Beach, Ocean City, MD		\$837 p/p dbl
Mar 25 - "SAMSON" @ Sight & Sound with meal		\$104*

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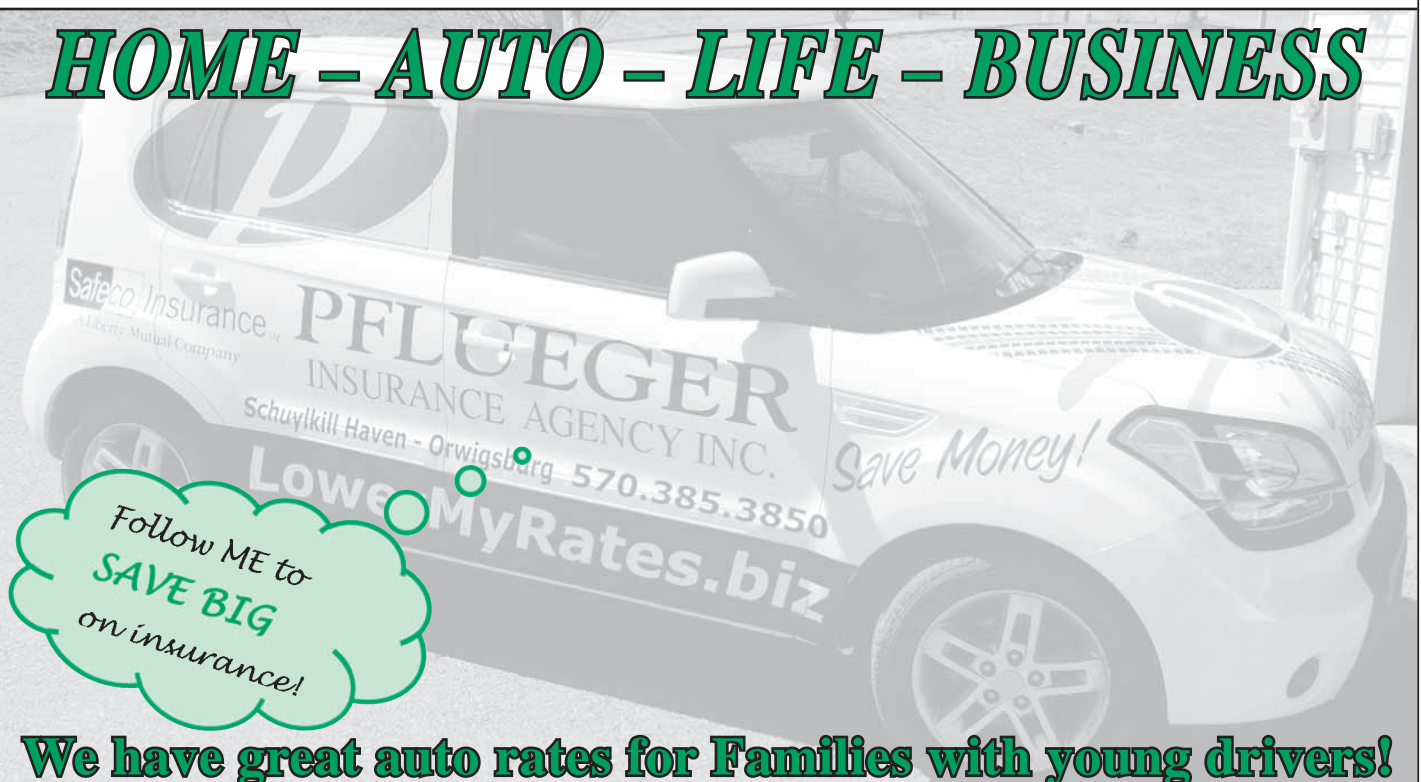
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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 8

ing final street paving. The necessary installation of larger sewer lines will provide improved services for all residents.

Borough change of mailing address

Orwigsburg Borough no longer has a Post Office Box, but now receives all of its letter and package mail at its street address. Mail all correspondence and utility payments to: Orwigsburg Borough, 209 N. Warren St., Orwigsburg, PA 17961.



Borough holiday schedule

Orwigsburg Borough will close its office in observance of these coming holidays – Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27, Thanksgiving; Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24-25, Christmas; and Thursday, Jan. 1 2016, New Years Day.

Create a wreath

The Schuylkill County Master Gardeners invite you to “Create a Holiday Wreath” between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Nov. 7 at Evergreen Acres, Rt. 895 just east of Auburn. Schuylkill County Master Gardeners will provide the greens, supplies and education. There is a \$20 fee by check to “PSCE Program

Acct, Schuylkill.” Call 570-622-4225 ext. 13 for registration. Bring gloves, pruners and holiday spirit.

Lions kick up their heels

Fall is a busy time of year for many groups, but the Orwigsburg Lions Club roars with activities.

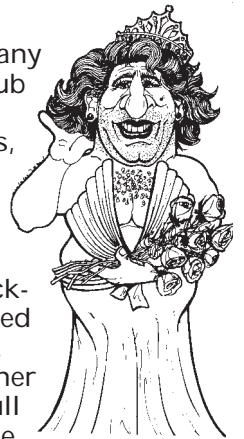
In addition to its annual events, including a golf tournament and coordinating the Halloween parade, the Lions joined with the Orwigsburg Memorial Development Task Force to host the recent kick-off dinner to celebrate the renovated Veterans Community Memorial Hall.

The club is a Task Force partner in seeing the renovations come full circle and looks forward to using the facility for future Lions events. The project reflects Orwigsburg’s community spirit and honors our hometown heroes, the veterans.

Preparations are underway for the Festival of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 5. The Lions Club will once again offer hot chocolate, soup and other delicious goodies as Orwigsburg celebrates the holiday season.

If you happen to see any Lions members wearing high heels, don’t be startled. They’re just practicing for the Lions Miss America Pageant which will be held

– Continued on page 12



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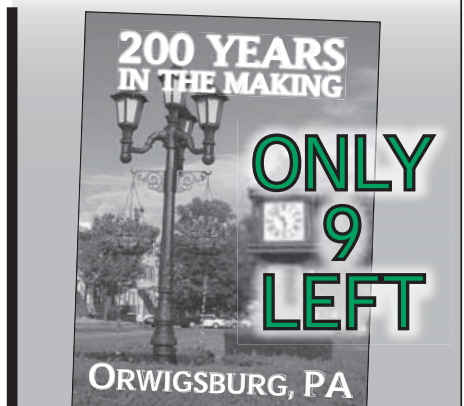
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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 10

in April at the Blue Mountain High School. Look for more details coming soon.

Interested in becoming an Orwigsburg Lions Club member? Or, just want to learn more about the organization? Email club president Michele Rudloff at rudloff1313@comcast.net. The club holds regular meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

Team Orwigsburg

Team Orwigsburg, a faith-based mission team here in our community, thanks all who participated in the October Family Fun Day held at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall.

The team is grateful the Orwigsburg community and surrounding area continue to support the work it does both locally and out-of-state following disasters. Next year's mission work along the East Coast is being planned now. Work in the Orwigsburg area and Schuylkill County continues year round.

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at Salem United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. New faces are always welcome. Phone Susan McCartney at 570-943-2103 with any questions or email Salem UMC at office@SalemUM.com.



Large item disposal

One large item may be placed at the curb beside your regular trash once per month.

Regular trash consists of up to six bags of garbage and up to ten bags of leaves. Residents should place trash at the curb any time after 6 p.m. on evenings prior to collection. Because pickup times vary, do not wait until the morning of collection to place garbage.

Month	Tues.	Fri.
Nov.	10	13
Dec.	8	11
Jan.	12	15
Feb.	9	12
March	8	11

LARGE ITEM PICKUP DATES

Construction materials (shingles, drywall, cabinets, insulation, etc.) may not be placed at the curb with your regular trash. You must get a dumpster which can be leased from the borough's trash collector, Kreitzer Sanitation at 570-874-3047.

Refuse/recycling collection

The Borough contracts with Kreitzer Sanitation for the weekly collection of refuse. Curbside collection is every Tuesday for properties on Market Street and north and every Friday for properties south of Market Street.

Pickup will be delayed one day for residents with Friday pickup due to the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years' Day holidays. Pickups will be Saturdays, November 28, December 26 and January 2.

The Borough has adopted the International Property Maintenance Code which requires refuse kept outdoors to be stored in a leak-proof container with a close-fitting cover.

Recycling electronics

The Covered Device Recycling Act of 2010 prohibits the disposal of desktop computers, laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals and televisions. If these items are placed on the curb for pickup, Kreitzer Sanitation will not take them.

Electronics recycling events are held periodically by the Schuylkill County Office of Solid Waste. When dates and locations are known, this information will be posted to the borough website and Facebook page.



Request for cones

Cones are available for use from the Borough. A cone request form must be filled out and is available from the borough office. Forty-eight hours notice must be given to allow time to get the cones delivered to their location and signs made and placed on the cones.

Owner/tenant forms

Reminder to all landlords: Orwigsburg Borough Ordinance #396 requires that every owner/lessor of any apartment, house or other type of rental build-

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www.genesisihcc.com



WE HONOR VETERANS
Community Partner



Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

ing shall register with the Borough every year. If any tenant moves from the dwelling during the year, the owner shall notify the Borough within thirty (30) days of said changes. Forms are available at the borough office or from the borough website.

In addition, landlords living in excess of 20 miles from the Borough must designate a local manager for the property. This individual must live within 10 miles of the borough.

Albright's Woods

Now is the time to plan that 2016 outdoor event. The pavilion at Albright's Woods is available for rent for your graduation party, family reunion or other event. Albright's Woods is located on Grove Street in Orwigsburg. The park has a pavilion with picnic tables and a kitchen available for use. Rental fee for the kitchen is \$75, \$25 of which is a returnable security deposit. If the kitchen is not needed, a \$25 fee is charged. For further details or to make a reservation to use the park, call the borough office at 570-366-3103.

Call before you dig!

Contractors, service companies, or do-it-yourself property owners must call 8-1-1 before disturb-



ing the ground in and around their property. Planting a tree? Building a deck? Installing a fence or even as simple as a mailbox, plan your project in advance and call the alert number several days before starting any digging project.

Tell the operator where you're planning to dig. Your affected local utility companies will be notified about your intent to dig and will send locators to your dig site to mark the approximate location of buried lines with flags or paint.

Utility bills

As this newsletter is being published, the due date for quarterly utility bills is fast approaching. It is the responsibility of all property owners to pay their bills in full by the due date printed on the invoice.

The Borough relies on these payments in order to meet the debt service and operating costs for the water, wastewater and sanitation services. If a bill is not paid after a short grace period, collection efforts will be initiated. If efforts to collect payments are unsuccessful, additional steps could include interruption of service and/or a lien placed on your property. Property owners are responsible for all costs incurred

- Continued on page 14



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

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Orwigsburg**

570-366-4984



Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 13

to collect past due obligations.

To avoid these actions and additional costs, property owners must make payment arrangements with the Borough. Have accounts up to date or a payment arrangement in place by then to avoid loss of service.

"Mail your payment to 209 N. Warren St., Orwigsburg, or drop it off during regular hours at the Municipal Building. A "drop box" has been located at the front door for your convenience if paying after hours. Please do not include cash when dropping off your payment.



Getting the word out

We use the Borough website www.orwigsburg.net as a valuable tool to keep residents and property owners informed about the happenings in the Borough. Our staff will keep the home page current with news on upcoming events and information on past events in the Borough.

The website lists borough meeting schedules. Minutes from these meetings are posted after they have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate body. The subdivision and zoning codes are also available for all to view. Numerous forms can be accessed, including applications for Albright's Woods usage.

Trash day pickup changes will also be posted. Links to other websites, such as the Lions Club, library, churches and fire company are on the website.

The website also includes a link allowing residents to enter their contact information into the borough's Swiftreach 911 emergency notification system. This site allows the Borough to notify residents via telephone, text message and email of boil water advisories, weather emergencies or any other emergencies in a prompt manner.

Proper disposal of Old Glory

Used flags may be brought to the borough office for proper disposal. Place flags inside the designated mailbox-like container in front of the borough building.

In need of health aids?

Are you or a loved one in need of any of these items to aid in recovery from illness or surgery?

- Wheelchair
- Walker – stationary & folding
- Hospital bed – manual & electric
- Cane – single and multi-legged
- Crutches

– Continued on page 16

Free Kitchen Design – Stop in Today!

Replace your countertop, change your hardware, or Start from scratch and remodel your whole kitchen or bathroom MRD LUMBER can help!!!

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www.TheArtsBarn.com

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 14

- Shower seat
- Bedside commode/bedpan
- Over-toilet seat with handrails
- Temporary tub hand rail
- Recliner chair with auto-lift seat



The Orwigsburg Lions' "Health Equipment Loan Program" provides these items to local residents at no charge as a community service. To arrange a loan, call Larry Dagna at 570-617-6149 or Walt Schimpf as a secondary contact at 570-366-0784 or call 570-449-0659 and leave a message.

Curb your animal

Borough Ordinance 299 prohibits pet owners from allowing their pets to defecate on another property without removing the feces from that property. Those violating this ordinance can be fined up to \$600.

Many residents take advantage of the parks and walking trail and are discouraged by the lack of consideration shown by some pet owners.

**ANIMAL WASTE
TRANSMITS
DISEASE!**



**Please Leash
& Clean Up
After Your Pet**

Snow emergencies

We may be trying hard to forget the experience of

last winter, but it is that time of year again. Here are a few reminders when the snow flies.

A "Snow Emergency" may be called by the mayor. Parking will be restricted on streets designated as "Snow Emergency Routes." Parking will NOT be permitted on the even side of a snow emergency route on even dates and the odd side of the street on odd dates. Note there will be no parking allowed on either side of the Square during a snow emergency.



Notice will be posted on the borough website, borough Facebook page and provided to the Republican Herald newspaper and radio stations WPPA-AM and WAVT-FM.

Households with a current telephone number in our database will receive a pre-recorded message call with information concerning the snow emergency. You may also receive notifications via email and text message. If you have not already done so, add your contact information via the Swiftreach link on the home page of the borough website:

www.orwigsburg.net.

Vehicles parked on a designated Snow Emergency Route in violation will be ticketed and could be towed. The vehicle owner is responsible for all towing costs.

Orwigsburg Historical Society & Museum

109 East Mifflin Street, Orwigsburg
570-617-7809 • 570-366-8769

Open every Thursday Noon to 4 p.m. and always by appointment!

- ~ Searching for a unique but perfect gift? Come to the Orwigsburg Historical Society
- ~ Gift Memberships and Honorary/Memorial Donations
(The society will take care of sending an attractive, holiday/event appropriate certificate to the recipient.)
- ~ Genealogical Research Gift Certificate. We will research any Schuylkill County or Berks County Family!
- ~ Historical book re-prints:
 - Old Schuylkill Tales *(very limited)*, One hundred Years of Orwigsburg History
 - Orwigsburg Centennial Book, 100 Years of Orwigsburg's History 1813-1913
 - History of Schuylkill County, PA
- ~ Post Cards
- ~ Limited Edition Prints of the Court House and Veterans' Memorial Building
- ~ Illusions . . . replicas of notable buildings from Orwigsburg's past.
- ~ Limited Edition Schuylkill County Commemorative Baskets . . . the series has ended, but we have a few of each year (2000 - 2014). All are dated and signed . . . check it out!
- ~ Photo reprints of any photo we have in our collection. Makes a terrific gift for that local history buff!

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State Senator David G. Argall

Pride in Veterans Community Memorial Hall

When the Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Hall was closed in 2010 due to safety issues, the community had two options – tear it down or fix the problem. Thanks to the vision, hard work and fortitude of the Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Development Task Force, chaired by Greg Stewart, the community rallied to turn this facility into a new symbol of pride for local residents. The building has been completely refurbished.



**SENATOR
DAVID ARGALL**

Many communities throughout our region face similar challenges – older buildings falling into a near state of disrepair. All too often, the trend is to ignore safety hazards, municipal code ordinances and the well being of neighbors and allow the property to become an eyesore. That's because blight is contagious. It rips apart communities block-by-block, street-by-street.

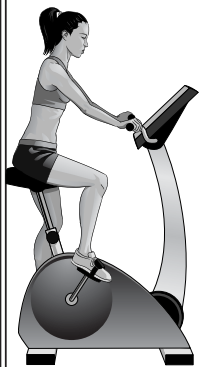
Last year, when I served as Chairman of the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee, we looked at ways to combat the blight and abandonment that continues to plague our older communities. Over the years, the state has provided a host of tools for the

municipal toolbox to combat this serious issue.

The local financial support for the project in Orwigsburg has been very strong. Over \$280,000 was chipped in locally through private donations, with the state providing more than \$382,000 to make this project a reality. I wish that every community I represent in Schuylkill and Berks counties could support its local endeavors with as much pride as Orwigsburg has demonstrated.

In October, Rep. Jerry Knowles and I attended the open house of the Veterans Hall. During the visit, I touted the need for communities to work together. While the project is not 100 percent complete yet, the task force continues to check off major milestones. The task force plans to complete the gymnasium, conference rooms and exterior fixtures including a playground and outdoor basketball court over the next year. The project to restore Veterans Community Memorial Hall serves as a true testament to the power of teamwork.

It is extremely encouraging to see state and local officials and countless volunteers come together with the support of generous local donors to turn a blighted building into a community gem. The project sets an example of the good we can accomplish in communities throughout the region if we continue to work together.



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Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

Whew – time flies! Especially when you are busy and having fun. A load of summer activities at the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library made the months whiz by. School days are now in full swing, but your library isn't slowing down. There is a full schedule of fall programming! Of course the regular standbys are in place and as lively as usual.

Tuesday mornings feature Story Time for preschoolers and their parent/grandparent, beginning at 10:30 a.m. This program is scheduled through December 8 and, after a short winter break, will resume again on February 2. Story Time is built around singing, crafts and movement. It's goal is to develop young readers, one story at a time!



Everyone is welcome to join the library's club action. Book Club meets the last Monday of the month at 6 p.m. to discuss the selected book. Knitters meet every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Lego Club builds every second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. (all ages are welcome). Mahjongg enthusiasts welcome experts and beginners to the group meeting the first, third, and fifth Wednesday of the month, beginning at 6 p.m.

Want to expand your horizons and learn a new language? Lessons in Spanish and Italian are offered at a cost of \$5 per hour. Spanish lessons are held Tuesday evenings and Italian is offered on Thursday evening, both beginning at 6 p.m.

Special Thursday programs

The library is the place to be on Thursday evenings with a special program beginning at 6 p.m.

- November 12 – Making holiday cards to send to veterans and local service personnel.
- November 19 – Penn State Master Gardeners will present the art and fashion of Colonial Williamsburg decorating for the holidays.
- December 3 – Enjoy a holiday story and learn a craft

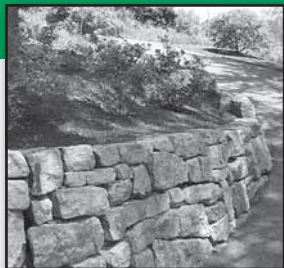
Mark your calendars

Upcoming fundraisers that benefit ongoing programming and materials at the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library include:

- Orwigsburg Holly Trail – Saturday, Dec. 5; noon to 4 p.m. Get in the spirit of the holidays by touring local homes and celebrating with a tea at Kimmels Church.
- Game Night at the Schuylkill Country Club – Saturday, March 5; more details in the February issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings*.
- Cupcake War at the Frackville Mall – Sunday, April 17; Be a baker or a taster! Sweet deal and lots of fun.

The Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library welcomes the community to stop in to experience all the library has to offer. There is something for everyone.

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News from State Rep. Knowles

Local Highways Dedicated to Hometown Heroes



**Representative
Jerry Knowles**

Portions of two area highways were dedicated in honor of Orwigsburg natives – Cpl. David F. Heiser and Captain Jason B. Jones – both killed in the line of duty in defense of their country. These highways were dedicated as a result of a new law inspired by House Bills 834 and 441 that I authored.

It was a true honor to work with the families of these two hometown heroes who so bravely and valiantly served their country.

Their sacrifice and dedicated service will never be forgotten.

Cpl. David F. Heiser

A portion of PA Route 443, between the western and eastern boundaries of Orwigsburg Borough, has been designated the Cpl. David F. Heiser Memorial Highway. Twenty-two year old Cpl. Heiser was killed while serving in Vietnam. He was a native of Orwigsburg who graduated from Blue Mountain High School in 1965.

In 1968, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He trained at Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantryman and as an Army medic. In 1968, he was promoted to the rank of corporal and was sent to Vietnam. While a medic, his platoon was ambushed on Feb. 2, 1969 in Binh Duong, Vietnam, and he was killed in action.

Heiser received the Purple Heart medal for his fatal injuries in Binh Duong and the Bronze Star with Valor for his courageous actions that day. He is buried at Kimmels Church of God Cemetery in Orwigsburg and is also remembered and honored on



Panel 33W, Row 40, of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Captain Jason B. Jones

A portion of PA Route 61, from the intersection of Brick Hill Road on the south to near the Rt. 443 intersection on the north, has been designated the Capt. Jason Jones Memorial Highway. Twenty-nine year old Captain Jason B. Jones was killed while serving in Afghanistan. An Orwigsburg native, he graduated from Blue Mountain High School in 2003. He then attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he graduated sixth in his class with a degree in nuclear engineering in 2007.



Jones was awarded the Bronze Star for his deployment in Iraq from 2008 to 2009. In May 2013 he joined the Green Berets and was deployed to Afghanistan in April 2014. Jones was killed June 2, 2014 of wounds from small arms fire in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

GABRIEL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

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Guest Musicians



Sofia Nowik
Cello



Barbara Jaffe
Violin

Dvorak Terzetto Op. 74;
Barriere Sonata No. 10;
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\$20 Adult • Students Free**

Gabriel Youth Orchestra Holiday Concert
under the direction of John F. Potlunas

Sunday, December 20 – 3 p.m.



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General admission: \$5

Gabriel Chamber Ensemble

P.O. Box 36, Orwigsburg, PA 17961 • 570-943-2558
www.gabrielensemble.org Gabriel Chamber Ensemble
gce@gabrielensemble.org



St. John's United Church of Christ

232 E. Market St., Orwigsburg • 570-366-2255

Traditional worship for contemporary souls

Dec. 5 – Nativity Display in Church

Dec. 12 – Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

Dec. 13 – Cantata 10 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE 8 p.m.

Sunday school classes 8:30-9:30 a.m. for adults

9-9:45 ages 3 yrs. through 6th grade

Worship 10 a.m. every Sunday.

Communion the first Sunday of each month

Orwigsburg Historical Society

The Orwigsburg Historical Society invites residents and visitors to explore its collection of Orwigsburg's past at the headquarters located in the historic, original Friendship Hose Company firehouse at 109 East Mifflin Street.



The society headquarters is open only Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. and by appointment. Group tours can be scheduled. Children's groups are especially encouraged. Membership support of the society's mission is encouraged. Additional information on membership, the society, and specific upcoming programs can be obtained by calling 570-617-7809, 570-366-8769, or email Peanut1212@comcast.net.

The public is encouraged to attend monthly programs and special events planned at the society's headquarters. All programs are free and open to the public with light refreshments served. The November meeting of the society is set for Thursday, Nov. 5 beginning at 7 p.m.

Membership reminder

Past members supporting the historical society

who have not renewed for the 2015-2016 member year are urged to do so. Non-members who would like to take an active support role in preserving the community's past are asked to consider becoming a member. Stop by the headquarters or call one of the phone numbers above.



ORWIGSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Located at 109 East Mifflin Street

Dine-Out for History

The Brick House Grill was the site this summer for a Dine-Out for History fundraising event supporting the Orwigsburg Historical Society. A lucky raffle ticket sold to Michael Vincent Mattera and Bryanna Faust was the winner of a Yuengling Bicycle donated by society member Kathy Pomian.

Unique holiday shopping

Searching for unique gift ideas for the holiday season? Memberships, books, postcards, artist renderings of historic buildings, illusions, and limited edition Schuylkill County commemorative baskets are just a few of the items available for holiday gift-giving at the Orwigsburg Historical Society. In addition to "gift-ing" a friend or relative, you will also be supporting local history.

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2015-16 Orwigsburg Historical Society Membership Form

Celebrating 21 years of preserving the history and culture of Orwigsburg and southern Schuylkill County

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Type of Membership (Please Check One): ☐ Individual \$20 ☐ Family \$25 ☐ Corporate \$50

All Corporate/Business members will be recognized as such and will be included in special promotions.

I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of ☐ \$20 ☐ Other \$ _____

All current members receive invitations to special programs, reduced admissions to special events, and a 10% discount on museum store purchases! Please mention membership at time of purchase.

The Orwigsburg Historical Society has numerous volunteer opportunities. Please indicate areas of interest, below. I am interested in volunteering in the following areas:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership & Community Outreach (Includes Speaking Engagements for the Community) | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Display Design & Implementation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy & Historical Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site Design & Mastering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping the Museum Open for Visitors | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guild (Events, Fund Raising, etc.) | |

Please return this form, in an envelope, along with a check made payable to the:

Orwigsburg Historical Society
109 East Mifflin Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

Thank You for your generous support with your donation to the Society in our 21st Anniversary year.



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Veterans Community Memorial Hall

Progress continues in the construction of Veterans Community Memorial Hall. Over the past few months, lighting for the flag pole was installed, the small conference room/concession area was completed, new furniture was added in the large and small conference rooms, Internet/WIFI service was added and additional interior painting brightens up the space. The installation of the original dedication plaque from July 1950 is proudly on display in the building.

The interior of the new Veterans Area entryway and commercial kitchen upgrades are two major stand-alone interior projects to be tackled over the next year, pending necessary fundraising. The new entry will become the permanent home to the Orwigsburg Court House clock restored by Schuylkill Masonic Lodge. Final details for these projects are being determined.

Exterior upgrades

On the exterior, improvements to the recreation facilities and the parking lot adjacent to the building are forthcoming.

The Task Force is working with the Borough to execute an existing DCNR C2P2 grant improving the recreation area adjacent to the building. A new play structure and swing set have been ordered. The installation of the equipment and corresponding site



improvements are forthcoming.

The Task Force is also working with the Borough to execute the \$225,000 grant received in 2015 through the Keystone Communities Program. With this grant, a project for stormwater management and parking lot improvements will be funded.

Before those improvements can be made, however, a concrete patio and corresponding sidewalks need to be installed to facilitate access to the new addition. Local funds must be raised for these improvements before the larger adjacent parking lot project is begun.

A multi-function community facility

Considering the recent progress and current condition of the building, this facility can be used for



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Join Us!

**Tea & Cookies Stop
During the Holly Trail**
December 5 - noon to 4 pm

Festival of Lights
On The Square, Downtown Orwigsburg
December 5 - 4:30 pm

Christmas Eve Service
December 24 - 6:30 pm

Sweetheart Banquet
Featuring Ventriloquist Ryan & Friends!
February 13, Doors Open @ 5:00 pm

Deer Hunters' Banquet
Landingville Fire Company Hall
February 20, Doors Open @ 5:00 pm

Newsletter Particulars

"Orwigsburg Happenings" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Orwigsburg distributed to 1,400 households within the borough.

The newsletter is designed and printed by South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing
960 E. Main St. • Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Ph: 570-385-3120 • Fax: 570-385-0725

E-mail: printing@southschuylkill.net

www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com

Publication dates for the next three issues are February 12, May 13, and August 12, 2016

News Submittals

Nonprofit and community organizations within the Borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received by Kathi Mengle in the borough offices, three weeks prior to the publication date.

Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Orwigsburg are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Barb @ 570-385-3120. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Orwigsburg.

Veterans Community Memorial Hall

many different functions (private meetings, public and recreational events, parties, private events, etc.). Work will continue, but should have limited impact to the current uses of the building. If you would like to utilize the building, contact Sherry at Borough Hall to discuss availability and logistics.

As the holiday season approaches and you are looking for a special gift, remember a limited edition, numbered print of the Dave Naydock Veterans Memorial painting is still available at a cost of \$50. Prints can be purchased at Borough Hall, the Historical Society, or by contacting any member of the Task Force.

This building has been renovated due to the hard work, effort and generosity of community-minded individuals. The project has received donations in all shapes and sizes. Everyone has a different ability and level at which to help support this project ... and, everyone benefits from its existence.

Monetary donations have been received at all levels – from a few dollars to a \$25,000 pledge. Many “in kind” donations of material and labor from volunteers and professional contractors have helped to make this project possible.

The project website www.orwigsburgmemorial.org and Facebook page contains additional information on this project and how you can help.

– Greg Stewart, President
Veterans Memorial Development Task Force



Lighting to illuminate the flag has been added at Veterans Community Memorial Hall.

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From the Desk of the Fire Chief

Fire Prevention Month Reminds Us of Safety

October is Fire Prevention Month. But fire prevention needs to be on the minds of all throughout the year.

One of the most infamous fires in American history, the Great Chicago Fire, started on October 8, 1871 but did most of its damage the following day, October 9. Though the actual cause of the fire was never officially determined, popular folklore blamed the blaze on Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicking over a lantern. The conflagration claimed 250 lives, destroyed 17,500 buildings and burned more than 2,000 acres.

Though this fire caught the attention of the nation, arguably a more tragic fire occurred at the same time. During those same two days in 1871, a forest fire in Wisconsin, known as the Peshtigo Fire destroyed the town of Peshtigo and 15 other communities, killed 1,152 people and burned 1.2 million acres.

On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America decided October 9 should be remembered, not as a celebration but, as an opportunity to educate the public on fire prevention topics.



President Woodrow Wilson made it official in 1920 when he issued a proclamation declaring that date as the first National Fire Prevention Day. Fire Prevention Week was started in 1922 and has been observed during the week in which October 9 falls ever since.

This year's fire prevention message is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep" and emphasizes the importance of having working smoke detectors in every bedroom, outside of every area where people sleep and on each level of your home, including the basement.

Statistics show half of residential fire deaths occur between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., the hours when most people typically are sleeping. Of these fire deaths, 60% occur in homes with no smoke detectors, or if they had detectors they were not working, usually because the battery had been removed. Working smoke detectors in your home reduce your risk of dying in a fire by 50%.

Why only a 50% reduction? Because waking up and realizing you have a fire is only the beginning of your problem. You must now escape the fire and it is here that Hollywood movies and television have given us a false sense of security. In a movie fire there is very little smoke. The victims can breathe easily and



Sunday Services • 8 & 10 am
Christmas Eve • Thursday, December 24 • 7 pm



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From the Desk of the Fire Chief

can see well enough to move quickly and confidently. These images are false.

Any firefighter will tell you that working inside a smoke-filled house is darker than the darkest night. Firefighters find their way through the building by crawling on hands and knees, feeling for obstacles and victims as they move. And remember, the firefighter brought his own air supply with him and is dressed in specially designed clothing to protect him from the heat being generated by the fire. You will not have this equipment.



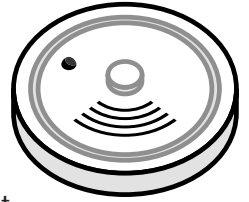
You do however have one very important advantage on your side. You can prepare now, before a fire occurs. The more smoke detectors you have throughout your home, the faster you will be warned that a fire has started.

Sleep with bedroom doors closed. The smoke detector in the bedroom will warn the occupant of a fire that starts in that room. The smoke detector outside the sleeping areas will alert you, and the closed door will protect you, of the smoke from a fire that started in another room.

Family members should have an alternate exit

from their bedroom, such as a window onto a porch roof. Practice and help your children learn and practice using these exits.

If you are awakened by a smoke detector, feel the top, middle and bottom of the bedroom door. If it is hot, don't open it. Exit the room by your alternate escape route. If it is cool to the touch, get down low and open the door just a crack. If you are met with heat and smoke, close the door and exit the room by your alternate escape route.



If the hallway is clear, exit the building. Designate a meeting place outside, at a safe distance from the building, where family members will join once they have escaped from the building. Use a cell phone or a neighbor's telephone to call 9-1-1 to report the fire. Do not go back into the building. Leave that job to the firefighters.

Maintain your smoke detectors. Test them regularly and change the battery at least every six months. Replace detectors that are 10 years old with new detectors. Practice home fire drills with your family.

The cold weather months are starting and this is the time of the year when most residential fires occur. Now is the time to make your plan and prepare your family to get out alive.

– Dave Hardinger, Fire Chief

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Orwigsburg Business and Professional Assoc.

Active Membership Stages Year-Long Events

With Halloween past and less than 50 shopping days left until Christmas, some might think it too early to reflect on 2015 and look forward to the coming year. The Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association (OBPA) believes the rush and crush of Thanksgiving and the December holiday season on the horizon, now may be the best time to look back ... and to think ahead.

During the past 10 months, membership has grown by 10% and is now 85 strong. Through the active and on-going participation of these members, OBPA provided the Orwigsburg area with an array of activities and events.

In early spring, Chad Reinert's rousing concert at the beautifully renovated Veterans Community Memorial Hall kicked off the season. Not long after Chad's performance, OBPA held its first ever "get to know us" Spring Mixer for present and future members.

The outdoor season of Square Time activities, complete with late spring showers, began with the June Jamboree, featuring area wineries, artists and the occasional beer. Our most successful annual

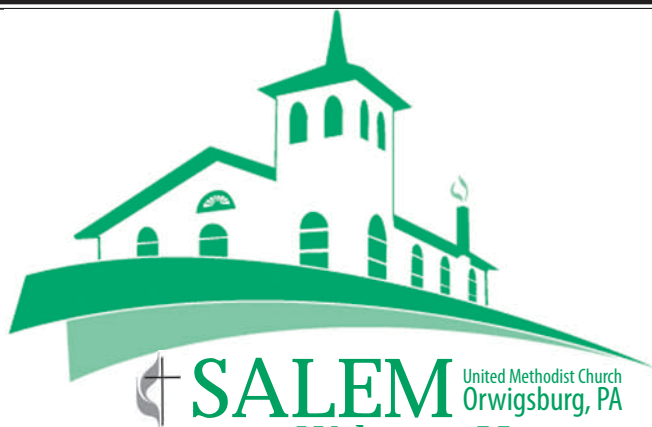


TENDING THE INFO BOOTH at the Community Heritage Celebration were, from left, Pat Falco, OBPA president; Amber Zanolini, vice president; Mark Zafura, member; and Veronica Barnes, secretary.

Family Fun Fest gave young and old the chance to enjoy each other and our fine downtown on a perfect August evening. This year's Orwigsburg Community Heritage celebration in early September showcased a completely new layout using the whole of Centre Square to accommodate a record number of vendors and activities.

Just this past month, the Chili and Chill's celebration of All Hallows Eve featured the Image of Orwigsburg art auction. Amateur chefs competed for the title of best chili recipe and treated event goers a taste of their creations amid a seasonal celebration of ghoulish and goofily costumed patrons.

Moving from creepy to Christmas, the last happening of 2015 is the beautiful and tranquil diversion from the crazy holiday season – Orwigsburg's Festival of Lights – Saturday, December 5. This traditional event features the songs and sounds of the season while offering area businesses the chance to show their creative side when participating in the wreath-decorating contest.



Welcome Home

133 S. Liberty St. Orwigsburg

www.SalemUM.com 570-366-0201

– Sunday at Salem –

8:45 a.m. – Traditional

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

**10:45 a.m. – Contemporary with
Children's Church and Nursery**

6:30 p.m. – SNL Coffeehouse

– SPECIAL EVENTS –

Dec. 13 – The God Squad Holiday Performance at 8:45 and 10:45 a.m.

Dec. 20 – Music Sunday at 8:45 and 10:45 a.m. w/Breakfast at 9:45 a.m.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship at 4 (NEW), 7 and 9 p.m.



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best credibility for the future.*

Orwigsburg Business and Professional Assoc.

High profile events and concerts help to keep the organization afloat, but some of the most important work OBPA does often goes unnoticed. Through joint cooperation, a growing relationship is enjoyed with the Orwigsburg Lions, Women Who Care, Team Orwigsburg, Friendship Fire Co., the Orwigsburg Historical Society, and Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library. OBPA plans to participate in the Veterans Memorial Task Force 300 Club donation program and the Walk for Progress in support of the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce.

Building a bridge to the future, OBPA established a Young Entrepreneurs Academy scholarship through the YEA! program of the Schuylkill Chamber and Penn State Schuylkill. A business/community scholarship for deserving Blue Mountain High School students is also planned.

The Orwigsburg business group is working with the Borough to foster ideas for structural improvements, including the eventual placement of new Welcome to Orwigsburg signs.

OBPA encourages fresh ideas for improvements from individuals and businesses alike. New mem-



Mayor Barry Berger (left) was a chef participant serving up his famous chili dish at the Chili & Chills Halloween party held recently.

bers are enthusiastically welcomed. Please support your community and OBPA by purchasing one of our unique and cool Kelly green tee shirts.

Find out more at www.orwigsburgbusiness.org or by calling OBPA president Pat Falco at 610-462-9168.

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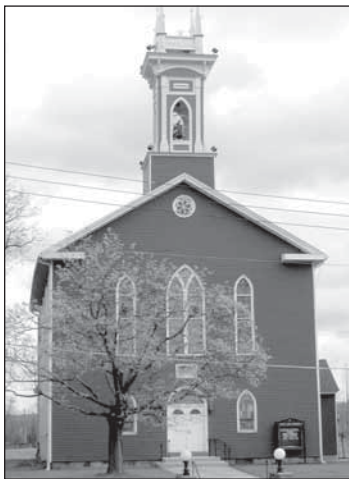
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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Zion's Red Church

Zion's Red Church, 1287 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61 at Brick Hill Road), is a union congregation of Evangelical Lutheran and United Church of Christ denominations whose members welcome, strengthen, and bless all who enter. Visit the updated church website at www.zionsredchurch.org to learn more or call the church office at 570-366-1178.



The church mission is to welcome all with God's love ... strengthen individuals for life's journey ... and bless our wider community. Adult Bible study at 9:15 a.m. followed by worship at 10:30 a.m. is offered every Sunday. Creative, interactive elements are a part of all worship services, helping to focus on the weekly scripture readings. Individuals sometimes will share "God sightings" as a way

to share their faith and how God is working in their lives.

Planning for the Advent season, a St. Nicholas themed worship on Sunday, Dec. 6th will appeal to

the young ... and the young at heart.

On Monday, Dec. 21 the annual Blue Christmas service will be held at 7:30 p.m. On this day – the winter solstice and longest night of the year – some people may feel blue that darkness is overtaking the light. For some the holiday season is not the happiest. There are those grieving the loss of a family member, the loss of a job, suffering from illness, feeling financial burden, or worried about other stresses. Gentle music, readings, healing prayer, and a time for quiet reflection will provide comfort to all. Holy Communion will be offered and you may light a candle in memory of a loved one, or as a sign of hope. All are welcome to enjoy this peaceful worship service.

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held Thursday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. The beauty of the season comes alive in celebration the Christ Child is in our midst. The community is invited for an evening of favorite carols, scriptures, music, and the singing of "Silent Night" to a sanctuary filled with glowing candlelight. Holy Communion will be offered at this beautiful, inspiring service as all journey to the manger together.

Support for those afflicted and affected by alcohol can be found every Wednesday at Zion's Red Church. The Alcoholics Anonymous group meets at 7:30 p.m.

Salem UMC

Salem United Methodist Church, 133 S. Liberty St. – where Liberty meets Independence – will be a hub of activity throughout the coming holiday and Advent season. Though only a summary is offered here, visit www.SalemUM.com ... email office@SalemUM.com ... or call 570-366-0201 for additional information.

The season kicks off Saturday, Nov. 14 with the 10th annual Holiday Stop and Shop from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. With 18 vendors, you'll find a wide selection of gifts to check off your list. Team Orwigsburg will have baked goods and soup ... proceeds will help this mission team's work.

A "Thank Offering" giving thanks for blessings received and to help support the Orwigsburg Food Pantry is planned Sunday, Nov. 15 at both the 8:45 and 10:45 a.m. worship services. Donations of food and other items will be received to help the needy among us throughout the upcoming season.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

215 North Warren Street • Orwigsburg

570-366-2316

www.stpaulsorwigsburg.org

Pastor: Rev. Lee A Diefenderfer

OFFICE HOURS:

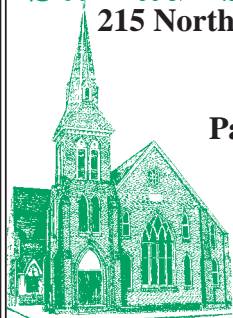
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

New Worship Times

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.



Handicap Accessible

Wed., Nov. 25 at 7:00 p.m.
Community Thanksgiving Eve
Worship Service

Sun., Dec. 13 at 3:00 p.m.
"Night of the Father's Love"
A Christmas Cantata presented by the
Chancel and Bell Choirs of St. Paul's.

Christmas Eve Worship
Dec. 24 – 5:00, 9:00
and 11:00 p.m.



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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches



Advent begins Sunday, Nov. 29 and continues Christmas day. An Advent workshop will be held Sunday, Dec. 6 at 12:15 p.m. All are welcome. The sounds of music will fill the air the following two Sundays featuring the church's own God Squad ringing

music December 13 at both the 8:45 and 10:45 a.m. services. December 20 is designated Music Sunday at both morning worship times. Between will be a breakfast for all to enjoy.

Looking for a church to celebrate Christmas Eve? All are invited to experience the wonder at three special worship times – 4, 7, and 9 p.m. New this year is the 4 p.m. early worship time, specifically with the youngest in mind. Both later evening worship times will have lighting of candles to show the Light of Christ coming into the darkness of the world. The 7 p.m. service will be a contemporary family worship service. The 9 p.m. service will be more traditional.

Spaghetti dinners and Family Movie Nights are

featured during the fall and winter months. The annual soup/bake sale will be held in February. Visit www.SalemUm.com for dates and times or check local bulletin boards for our notices.

Numerous small group meetings and activities are offered weekly, including Youth Fellowship, women's small group book studies, Bible study with the pastor, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Team Orwigsburg adult/youth missions, and scrapbooking. Music ministry opportunities abound, such as the senior choir, children's choir, handbell choir and Praise Singers.

St. John's UCC

St. John's United Church of Christ, 232 E. Market St., describes worshipping there as "traditional worship for contemporary souls." All are invited to experience that worship each Sunday morning at 10 a.m., with communion served the first Sunday of each month. Sunday school classes, for ages four years through 6th grade, are held at 9 a.m. and an adult Bible study group meets every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. New faces are always welcome.

The pastoral search committee has begun the process of finding a new full time pastor. Interim pastor John Steitz welcomes everyone each Sunday morning with a handshake and a sincere 'good morning!'

St. John's sponsors many community groups,

– Continued on page 30

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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

– Continued from Page 29



including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, yoga classes, quilting group, senior exercise group, blood drives, the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry, senior citizens, and Team Orwigsburg fundraising dinners. Call the church office at 570-366-

2255 for information about any of these groups.

The food pantry is housed at St. John's but is supported by a total of eight area churches, community groups and the Blue Mountain School District. Donations of canned goods are always needed as an average of 100 or more families are helped each month with a box of food. Distribution is made on the third Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. Volunteers are always needed to pack the food boxes Friday night before the distribution. Contact the church office if you are interested in helping with this community mission.

Kimmels Church

As we approach colder weather and the holi-

day and Advent seasons, the Kimmels Church congregation wishes all in the community a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

Kimmels Church once again will host the "tea and cookies" stop of the Orwigsburg Holly Trail on Saturday, Dec. 5 from noon to 4 p.m. All are encouraged to enjoy this special event that helps raise funds for the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library. Purchase your tickets and get your program and map at the library. Enjoy your stop at Kimmels with the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas. Listen to our carolers. Have your photo taken with friends. Listen to live Christmas music being performed on our stage. Enjoy homemade refreshments prepared just for you. Best of all, let us help prepare your heart for this coming Christmas season.

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Dec. 6 – "St. Nicholas Themed Sunday"
For young and young at heart – 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 21 – Blue Christmas Service, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 24 – Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m.

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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

are invited to Christmas season services this year starting November 29 at 10 a.m. each Sunday. A special Christmas Eve service on Thursday, Dec. 24 begins at 6:30 p.m. with a carol sing and features our Ensemble sharing the message of Christmas through song. Join in candle lighting as we remember the Light of the World – Jesus Christ and His birth.

Tickets will be available in December for the annual Sweetheart Dinner/Show and Hunter's Banquet events. The Sweetheart Dinner will be Saturday, Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m. featuring a full course candlelight meal and entertainment by ventriloquist Ryan and Friends.

The Hunter's Banquet is Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Landingville Fire Hall featuring good food and prizes. Guest speaker is Nebraska pastor Zeke Pipher, an avid outdoorsman and author.

Mothers of pre-school children may be interested to join the MOPS group. It meets every second and fourth Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join other mothers for growing relationships, sharing laughs and completing crafts. Childcare is provided.

Additional information on these and other events can be found at kimmelschurch.org or phone the church office at 570-943-2759.

St. Paul's Lutheran

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 215 North Warren St., will host the area-wide Community Thanksgiving

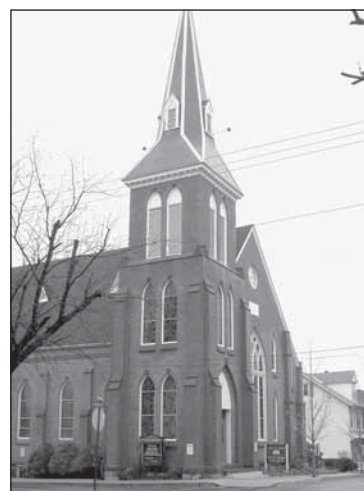
Eve worship service on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7 p.m.

The church welcomes all to worship and to be a part of the church family. St. Paul's office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and can be reached by calling 570-366-2316. Additional information can be obtained at www.stpaulsorwigsburg.org.

Weekly worship services, led by the Rev. Lee A. Diefenderfer, are held each Saturday at 5:30 p.m. with two Sunday opportunities at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school begins at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible study is held every Sunday during the Sunday school hour.

Residents and visitors have a special invitation to attend upcoming holiday events. In addition to the Thanksgiving Eve service, a Christmas Cantata will be presented by the Chancel and Bell Choirs of the church on Sunday, Dec. 13 beginning at 3 p.m.

Christmas Eve worship will be held Thursday, Dec. 24 in three services – 5, 9 and 11 p.m.



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2015 Remaining Holiday Schedule

*Orwigsburg Borough Offices will be closed
the following days*

Thursday – November 26th (Thanksgiving)

Friday – November 27th

Thursday – December 24th

Friday – December 25th (Christmas)

Friday – January 1st (New Year's)

We wish you and your families a very safe and
happy holiday season and look forward to a
great new year of serving you.

